

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 18 remain in the application. Thus, claims 16 and 18 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, a minor editorial revision was made to the specification in order to correctly identify the filing date of the parent application of the present application and to update the status of the parent application. No new matter has been added via this editorial revision.

In item 4 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 16 and 18 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,773 in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. 6,519,676) and further in view of Gotou (U.S. 6,020,828).

Without intending to acquiesce to this rejection and merely to expedite allowance of the application, the Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer under 37 CFR 1.321, which is signed by a registered attorney of record, together with the fee required under 37 CFR 1.20(d) to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 16 and 18.

Accordingly, in view of the Terminal Disclaimer submitted herewith, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16 and 18 are now clearly in condition for allowance.

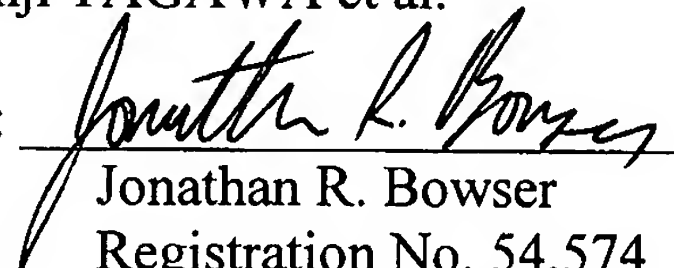
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenji TAGAWA et al.

By:


Jonathan R. Bowser
Registration No. 54,574
Attorney for Applicants

JRB/ck
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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